block by block to private owners. When the registries were made in future a compact area suitable for pasturage should be set apart and it should be declared a reserve.

A bridge should be constructed over the Parali river at the place called Peruvazhikadavu. The road from Kulasekharam to Shorlacode had to cross this river. There was heavy traffic on this road which was 16 feet wide. In the rainy season it was difficult to cross the river. Government had once an idea of constructing a bridge across the river. It was given up only because of the boom in the price of iron consequent on the out-break of the Great War. But now the situation had changed completely and the price of iron had gone down to Rs. 7 a cwt.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, I hasten to remove a misapprehension you seem to labour under. You spoke of systematic neglect on the part of the Government. Let me assure you that the Government have not as yet adopted a method of applied neglect.

MEMBER: I beg to submit that I said 'neglect till last year'.

DEWAN: Well, the Government of Travancore have up to the present adopted definite methods of neglect. Whatever has happened is due to fortuitous circumstances and not malice afore-thought.

In regard to the *manamari* tanks the Government have at present under consideration a scheme for the better control, management and improvement of minor irrigation.

Yow want a dam constructed at Mampazhathurai at a cost as you state of Rs. 2 lakhs. The object of the dam you propose is to provide a better supply of water for irrigation purposes. The Chief Engineer has explained to me that the surplus water of the Mampuzhathurai is already being diverted into the P. P. Channel by the construction of two drops. Thus the waters of the Mampazhathurai are already being made use of for irrigation without the construction of a dam.

You also advocate the construction of a bridge over the Parali river now that the cost of iron has gone down to Rs. 7 a cwt. The Chief Engineer says that even at that price the need is not sufficiently great to justify the construction of a bridge as the traffic has not sufficiently developed for the purpose. There is a ferry there and a causeway and these for the time being at any rate meet the requirements of the place.

68. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. K. M. KESAVAN TAMPI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) said that the subject of irrigation was, it was gratifying to note, receiving careful attention in the present administration, which in this respect offered a striking contrast to the preceding ones, particularly those of foreign Dewans. The Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer were busy preparing schemes for the improvement of tanks and channels and the allotment for minor irrigation works which stood at Rs. 18,590 in 1096 had in the course of 1101, 1102, and 1103 risen

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to Rs. 2,18,100. But still there was much scope for development. So far as this subject was concerned, South Travancore deserved to be treated as an entity in itself, not only because it represented one of the greatest rice producing areas in the State, but also because unlike the rest of Travancore it did not receive a sufficient quantity of rainfall. There was also the circumstance that the rates of assessment were much higher in South Travancore than in other parts of the State.

As a first step in the conservation and development of minor irrigation works, an irrigation fund should be formed made up of the annual budget allotments for irrigation, the unspent balances out of which should, at the close of each year, lapse not to the general revenues but to the irrigation fund. This fund should be utilised for the restoration of tanks as, for example, the many tanks in the Kalkulam taluk which stood in urgent need of repair. There was also another thing which had to be borne in mind in this connection. This was the selection of tanks for the execution of repairs. In order to ensure the restoration of the tanks in the order of their importance and usefulness, village boards should be established for every two or three pakuthies, which should have in their composition the sub-division officer and the section officer of the locality.

In regard to channel irrigation, many channels remained to be opened in the Kalkulam taluk which, from the inception of the Kodayar Project, had been included in its scope. Government were putting off the opening of these channels saying that the Thiruvancode channel would have to be widened before these works were undertaken. The Thiruvancode channel had since been widened; but then Government had discovered another means of shelving the question. When the people, for example, applied for the opening of the Thikkanamkottu channel, Government asked them to surrender the necessary lands free of cost. It was very hard that Government should display such apathy in a matter like the provision of irrigation facilities, the beneficial results of which, as described in the Indian Famine Commissioner's report were many and far-reaching. Government should reconsider their order about the Thikkanamkottu channel and arrange for its opening at their own cost.

Another need of the agriculturists of South Travancore, particularly of the Kalkulam taluk, was the provision of suitable means of communication. This was necessary as much in the interests of agriculture as of public health, in so far as the existence of good roads would not only make agricultural operations more easy but also enable the people to get prompt medical aid in seasons of cholera and other epidemics. But any request on the part of the people for a road was sure to meet with a demand for free surrender of lands, for construction of the road under the Ryot's Roads rules. The following were a few roads which, the Ryots' Roads rules apart, Government should themselves open for the people:—

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1. Monday market-Thalakulam road. This should be extended.
2. Friday market-Eraniel road.
3. Thikkanamcode-Puthur road.
4. Neyyoor-Chempanvila road. This road should be extended by about ¾ of a furlong from its present terminus and the encroachments on it should be removed.

In the interests of poor ryots an order should also be issued exempting applications for *karivu* certificates from payment of court fee of chs. 2 each as at present.

The Additional Munsiff's Court at Thuckalai should be shifted to Eraniel or some convenient place in the neighbourhood of Eraniel. This subject was one which was brought to the notice of Government several times, but with no result. It was hoped that the people who were so eagerly looking forward to the change would not be disappointed in the end.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kesavan Tampi, you are correct in thinking that the Chief Engineer and the Director of Agriculture have set their thoughts in the direction of minor irrigation and I can also assure you that an increasing purpose runs in the Government's attitude towards minor irrigation. So far as the name goes, it mis-describes the position. Minor irrigation is far from being a minor subject. We are at present evolving proposals for the improvement of minor irrigation generally and for the agencies which will bring about the desired effect. All you said in regard to channels and communications will be forwarded to the Chief Engineer for investigation and report.

Turning to the Munsiff's Court which you would like to see transferred from Thuckalai to Eraniel, this is a matter which was brought to the notice of the Assembly by Mr. Subramonia Pillai last year. It was referred to the High Court and the High Court, although they did not consider that a transfer is immediately necessary, will take the question up in connection with the redistribution of the territorial jurisdiction of courts in Travancore.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

69. Needs of the Vilavancode taluk.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Vilavancode taluk*) thanked the Dewan for visiting the Vilavancode taluk more than once during the recent cholera epidemic and for taking a personal interest in the progress of the relief measures in the taluk. He also requested that Government should make a suitable contribution to the cholera relief fund collected by the public with a view to the protection of the many children left destitute after the epidemic.

He next referred to the Patanalummudu evening market. In reply to his representation on the subject at the 24th session of the Assembly, he had received a letter from Government, from which he understood that Government were at one with the Land Revenue

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